

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of planning demand for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, comprising the steps of:
  - providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics[[,]];
    - ~~inputting the receiving a~~ selection of at least one product to be represented[[,]];
      - ~~inputting the receiving a~~ selection of a particular characteristic to be represented[[,]];
        - ~~inputting receiving a~~ planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product[[,]];
          - loading data to be represented from the data storage system into a buffer[[,]];
            - performing a calculation on the represented data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics[[,]];
              - modelling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter[[,]]; and
              - using the hierarchy ~~for the administration of to administer~~ the buffered data.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein  
the administration of the buffered data includes the step of:

performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the ~~represented~~ data  
through the data storage system, ~~where~~ wherein the calculation differs from that defined  
by the planning parameter[[,]].

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding  
claim 1, including the step of further comprising:

~~preparing storing~~ the recalculated ~~represented~~ data ~~for saving~~ in the data storage  
system.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 3,  
~~including the step of further comprising:~~

loading the recalculated ~~represented~~ data into the data storage system.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding  
claim 1, wherein the calculation is a disaggregation calculation.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding  
claim 1, wherein the recalculation is a disaggregation or an aggregation calculation.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding  
claim 1, wherein the data storage system is an object oriented data base.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the modelling step includes modelling the hierarchy with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the calculating step is carried out by the data storage system.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the calculating and recalculating steps calculate the incidence of each product dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in accordance with the selected product. [[.]]

11. (Currently Amended) A demand planner apparatus for planning demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, wherein said demand planner is operatively associated with a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics, and wherein said demand planner is operatively associated with a user interface for receiving input of the selection of at least one product to be represented, input of the selection of a particular characteristic to be represented, and input of a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product, said demand planner apparatus comprising:

a storage medium ~~having recorded therein~~ storing processor readable code processable to plan demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, said code comprising:

data loading code processable ~~load data to be to~~ load data represented from the data storage system into a buffer,

calculation performing code processable to perform a calculation on the represented data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics, and

hierarchy modelling code processable to model a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter, wherein the hierarchy is used to administer ~~using code~~ processable to use the hierarchy for the administration of the buffered data.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The demand planner apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~said using code~~ administering the buffered data includes propagating recalculation performing code processable to perform performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the represented data through the data storage system, where the calculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter[[.]].

13 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A computer-readable medium storing program instructions executable by a processor to perform a method of planning demand for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics;

receiving a selection of at least one product to be represented;

receiving a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

receiving a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product;

loading data from the data storage system into a buffer;

performing a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

modeling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter; and

using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data.